Slayers: "Love Destroyer" by Shinsui
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LOVE
DESTROYER

1998

PRESENTED
BY

SHINSEN DEN

SHISINDEN
LOVE DESTROYER
1998

"The Great" Shazard Lugandy, famously considered one of the most powerful sorcerers of all time,
dedicated the last years of his life to developing a certain weapon for use against the mazoku race:
By reflecting whoever stood before its mirrored surface,
it was able to create a physical "Shadow," copying the original's skills but with their antithetical personality.
With his death, the once mighty weapon faded into obscurity over time, and most deemed its existence either greatly exaggerated or entirely fabricated.
The Shadow Reflector.
But not long ago, while most were content to dismiss its existence as mere myth,
the mirror was rediscovered and stolen by a sorcerer bent on world domination,
dragging yours truly, Lina Inverse, headlong into one of the most nauseating battles of life and death she cares to remember...
The Sorcerer... Lagan (About 58) Former assistant director of the Sorcerers' Guild Currently serving time
The details... Forget it. it still hurts!
GLINT
...THERE IT IS...

WHAT THE HELL IS IT DOING WITH A NO-GOOD, TWO-BIT BANDIT LIKE YOU ?!
WHOO
HELP MEEEE!!
PANIC in The MIRROR

WHOOO...
ゴオオオオ
My thoughts exactly.
GULP.
Please don't kill me...
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
LINA?
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE MIRROR?
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S WHAT...?!
THAT'S NOT SOME MIRROR... IT'S THE SHADOW REFLECTOR...!

EEK!
SKRÀNCH
GIVE IT OVER! NOW!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE MESSING WITH!
I...
WAIT A MINUTE...
BUT I'D HEARD IT WAS DESTROYED BY SOME SORCERER AGES A-
I AIN'T GIVIN' IT UP! 'S'MINE, YOU HEAR ME!? MIIINE!!
I DUG IT OUT OF THE SORCER'S GUILD'S DUMP! I DID! MEEEEE!!
I'm not impressed with their managerial skills.
MY, WHAT A COMICAL MISCOMMUNICATION.
...

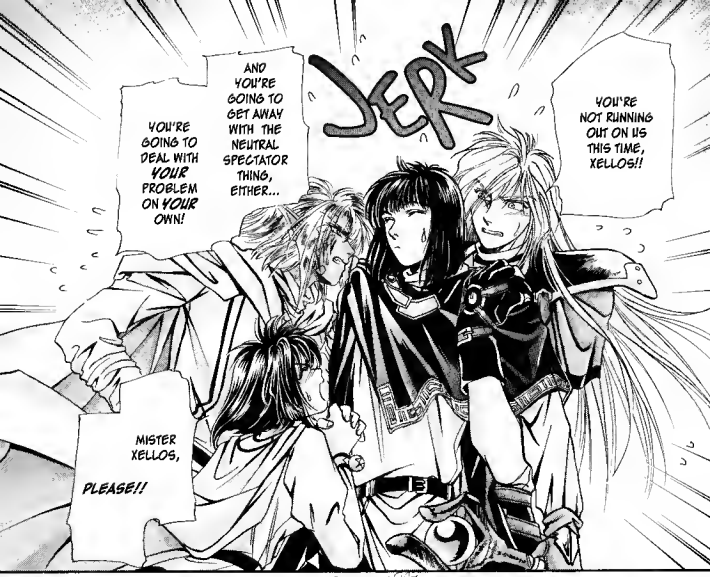
ALL OF YOU!
GET DOWN! NOW!
SHWIP
HAND IT OVER!
STAY AWAY FROM MEEEEE!!
STUH-
ST-
URGG...
HM?
SHING!
GASP

LEAP
WHAZZIT DOIN'!?
WHASSIT DOIN?!
WHOA!
OH..
OH, NO..

TWITCH
OHHH, THIS IS BAD.
TWITCH
THIS IS REALLY BAD...
ALL HANDS, FALL BACK!!
JUMP!!
CRIMSON FLAME, BURNING BRIGHT, SOURCE FROM WHERE ALL POWER FLOWS!
GATHER NOW WITHIN MY HANDS AND BLAZE INTO AN INFERNO!
KA-BOOM!
BURST FLARE!!

WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE? YOU WOULDN'T GET THAT WORKED UP OVER NOTHING.
I'd say he was plenty close to nothing.
I WAS ABOUT TO ASK THE SAME THING, MISS LINA!
In fact, you probably killed him!
SURELY CASTING A BURST FLARE AT THE MAN WAS MORE THAN HE-
DON'T BE STUPID.
DON'T YOU GET IT? HE MADE SHADOWS OF US.
WHAT HE DESERVED WAS THE DRAGON SLAVE.
C'MON, ZEL...
SHADOWS THAT HAVE OUR ABILITIES, BUT WITH PERSONALITIES STRICTLY OPPOSING OURS...
OH, NO!
WHAT?!
LINA...

I'VE BECOME MY OWN WORST ENEMY!?
BASI-CALLY.
ZEL
TH... THEN "I"...
Oh.... Oh, no...
At least Luna avoided it. Otherwise, we'd be living in a nightmare.
DO YOU THINK A BURST FLARE WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO TAKE ANY OF US OUT?
BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN...?
SMILE
SMILE
Well...
SO... LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
I KNOW IT HAPPENED TO US 'N ALL...
LIN
YANK!
DEN!?
OH? YOU ALL SEEM AWFULLY PALE ALL OF A SUD-


JERK
YOU'RE NOT RUNNING OUT ON US THIS TIME, XELLOS!!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET AWAY WITH THE NEUTRAL SPECTATOR THING, EITHER...
YOU'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH YOUR PROBLEM ON YOUR OWN!
MISTER XELLOS,
PLEASE!!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT THIS ONE OUT...
GET YOURSELF TOGETHER WE NEED YOU.
LINA...
SKRITCH SKRITCH
AH... HMM.

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT...
THINK ABOUT IT... ON ONE SIDE, WE'VE GOT XELLOS THE BEAST PRIEST HITTING US WITH EVERYTHING HE'S GOT...
...AND FROM THE OTHER SIDE...
...A MASTER SWORDSMAN AND A COUPLE OF EXPERTS IN SHAMANISTIC MAGIC...
HEH...
HEH HEH...
OH, YES. A FIGHT LIKE THAT WOULD BE THE STUFF OF LEGENDS...
LINA...
ARE YOU... SCARED?
IF ALL WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WAS A NO-HOLDS-BARRED AWESOME BATTLE,
I WOULDN'T BE SCARED, I'D BE PUMPED! I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S MORE THAN THAT!!
AH
HA
HA
HA
HA

AHHH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
I'VE NEVER HEARD HIM SOUND SO HAPPY BEFORE, BUT IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER I COULD ALMOST SWEAR THAT'S...
WH...
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?!
THAT VOICE...
Y'GOTTA PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!
LIGHTEN UP, YO!
♡
HEY, HEY!
C'MON NOW! WHASSAMATTER WITH YOU GUYS? YOU ALL LOOK LIKE YOUR BEST FRIEND JUST DIED!
ZE...!?
MISTER ZELGADISS!?
THAT IS MOST DEFINITELY MISTER ZELGADISS.

SOB
I REEEALLY THINK WE SHOULD THINK THIS THROUGH...
SOB
OH MY GOSH!
MISTER GOURRY ?!
PUH LEE-HEE-HEE-EZE, ZEL...
LET'S GO BACK, OKAY?
I MEAN, LOOK, THIS IS THE MESS WE'RE STUCK WITH, AND I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I FEEL LIKE MAKING THE MOST OF IT!
PSHT!
I'M NOT GONNA WASTE MY LIFE THINKING THROUGH EVERY LITTLE THING I DO. THAT'S NOT MY STYLE.
...I...
I CAN'T REMEMBER ...!
HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE. HOW DID THIS HAPPEN ...?
THIS IS... WHAT...
TH... THAT'S...
ME...?
EUGH

No!
I CAN'T BE THIS STUPID, I CAN'T!!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LIVE WITH ONLY HALF A BRAIN?!
Nooo, No!
...HEY, ZEL...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH "ME"?
Is it something I ate?
CLAP
.....
SNAP
...A DITZY, CAREFREE...
...BRIGHT AND CHEERY VERSION OF ZELGADISS...
Oh, yeah. I'm totally working these Rock thingies.
Hey there, handsome.
I want to rock... rock, whatever.
I TOLD YOU...
GLARE
...A TWITCHY, FAINTHEARTED VERSION OF GOURRY WHO WRINGS HIS HANDS OVER THE STUPIDEST STUFF...

WHAT?!
THAT IS WHAT'S SO SCARY ABOUT THE SHADOW REFLECTOR!!
Get out from behind me, you freakin' behemoth! You're scaring me more than they are!
SCOOT
SCOOT
They're reading me
Zzzz... They keep looking at us!
SHWIP!
WHILE THE ORIGINALS' SKILLS AND ABILITIES ARE RETAINED, THE SHADOWS' PERSONALITIES ARE TWISTED INTO THE DIRECT ANTITHESES OF THEIR ORIGINALS.
Isn't that nice?
WHEN USED AGAINST ENEMIES BEARING HOSTILE INTENT TOWARD ITS HOLDER, IT CREATES PHYSICAL COPIES OF WHOEVER IT REFLECTS AS A MEANS OF DEFENSE,
WELL, SHAZARD'S SHADOW REFLECTOR IS A VERY... SPECIALIZED CREATION, YOU COULD SAY.
BUT IF YOU'LL RECALL...
POKE

IT CREATED THIS... THIS DAINTY, DIPLOMATIC, FRAIL, WEEPY BLOB OF ME! IT GIVES ME GOOSEBUMPS JUST REMEMBERING IT!
WHEN I LOOKED INTO THE MIRROR BEFORE,
Let's not resort to violence...
NONE OF US FELT PARTICULARLY THREATENED BY THE HARMLESS BANDIT HOLDING THE MIRROR,
WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE TRANSLATED INTO A LACK OF AGGRESSION ON THE PARTS OF OUR SHADOWS TOWARD US.
Eek! I'm so tall! How'm I gonna get down?
WHUD!
WAH
A DAINTY, DIPLO-MATIC...
...FRAIL AND WEEPY...
ULP
ERR
...MISS LINA...?
...VERSION OF...
...IT HAPPENED TO ME.
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY CONSIDER THIS LUCKY?!
LUCKILY FOR US. ♡
LOOK AT THEM!
SMILE♡

...HR...
HMPH.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU GUYS HAVE A DEATH WISH.
...MAYBE A DRAGON SLAVE WILL CHANGE YOUR TUNE.
This Shadow Reflector is serious business...
REST
Th... This is what we're dealing with...?
REST
I SAID, MOVE IT!!
AAAGH!
HM?
I OUGHTA TEACH YOU A LESSON...
THEM I EXPECTED THIS FROM, BUT YOU, AMELIA?
OHHH! I'M SORRY! REALLY, I AM!
OUT OF THE WAY, LADIES.
...HUH?
MUTTER
MUTTER
Hard to believe the Sorceress' could leave a bone-worn like that lying around...
Just the thought's enough to make you queasy

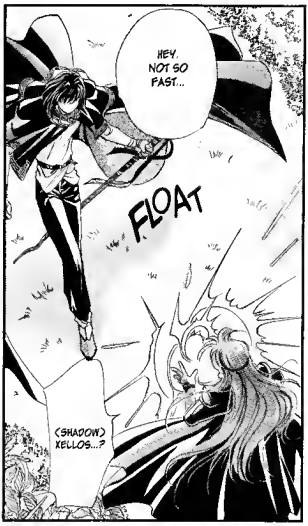
...MISTER XELLOS?!
X...
THIS IS THE SHADOW VERSION.
I'M OVER HERE, MISS AMELIA.
FLOAT
SORRY? I'M OVER HERE?
WA-WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MISTER XELLOS?!
PLEASE, DON'T!
OH!
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP

cheep
cheep
SHADOW XELLOS...
HE LOOKS LIKE THE TEXTBOOK JERK.
MORE THAN ANYTHING, HE'S RUDE.
BUT...
...AND I'D BETTER NOT CATCH YOU DOWN THERE AGAIN.
THOSE MEAN GIRLS DOWN THERE WOULD GOBBLE YOU RIGHT UP.
...DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I'LL BE DAMNED IF HE WOULDN'T GIVE AN ANGEL A RUN FOR HIS MONEY.
As if I wasn't stalked enough...
ha.ha.ha
OH, I WOULDN'T GO QUITE THAT FAR...
Well, I never.
NOT YOU! HIM!
Amelia

FOR THE LOVE OF-!
YER REALLY PISSIN' ME OFF!
dRag
dRag
WHAK!
BACK OFF, GOURRY! I MEAN IT!
QUIT FEELING ME UP, DAMMIT!
You make me!
I GOT ALL THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT I COULD HANDLE FROM FRICKIN' REZO, THE OL' FART!!
UGH...
...
...IS... IS THAT REALLY TRUE? MISTER ZELGA-DISS...?
(With these relationships, it'd be more surprised if it weren't a daily thing. I won't mention the details in decent company, though. Ho, ho, ho.)
(Heh)
Really? I thought it was serious.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, ZEL...?!
WAS IT ALL A LIE, THEN...?
WHEN YOU TOLD ME IN MY ARMS, THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE YOU COULD TRUST...
WAS THAT ALL JUST A LIE?!
ボタ ボタ

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
REEEEALLY, NOW...
SIDE-EYE
FLAIL
UH-
ERR...
FIDGET
You can't toy with my emotions like this!
Shut up, already!
I CAN, UH...
I can explain! Think...
GULP
FLARE ARROW!
ZOOM
AH-AH, "MISTER" ZELGADISS...
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING ABOUT ME?
SURELY YOU WOULDN'T DARE SAY THAT WHAT WE HAD MEANT NOTHING TO YOU, EITHER.
AAAGH!

THAT'S IT!!
SPLIT!
DO NOT MAKE THIS SITUATION WORSE THAN IT ALREADY IS!
YOU STUPID ORIGINAL!
You're hard WAY too much fun with this
What a pain in the ass.
Hmph.
Hmph!
OOPS.
YOU CAUGHT ME.
Hee ♡
You throw a mean slipper, Miss Lina-ß
YOU...
Is Yelling
Oh?
SNAP
...OF...
FFF...
Oh...
STOP MAKING FUN OF-
OF...
ALL OF YOU...
Don't leave me, Zel...


HEY. NOT SO FAST...
FLOAT
(SHADOW) XELLOS...?

...JEEZE.
ZEL! SNAP OUT OF IT, BUDDY!
PSSH
PSSH
IT'S A SHAME HE CAN'T SHARE HIS SHADOW COUNTERPART'S THICK SKIN... EVEN A TENTH WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT.

SIGH.
...THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.

IF YOU SO MUCH AS LIFT A HAND AGAINST THEM, IT'S ME YOU'LL HAVE TO FACE NEXT.
ARE YOU FORGETTING WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH?

Darker are you than the deepest twilight;
more crimson are you than flowing red blood
I CAN'T SAY I WON'T FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY ABOUT IT,
BUT IT'S TIME TO FINISH THESE TROUBLE-MAKERS OFF.
I call now upon the name of you,
who lay buried within the flow of time

ARE YOU UP TO THAT CHALLENGE?

Shadow ▶

◀ Original

BUT NO MATTER HOW HOPELESS THEY SEEM NOW, YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT I, BEAST PRIEST (SHADOW) XELLOS, COULD HAVE THEM COMPLETELY REFORMED AND REINTEGRATED INTO SOCIETY IN NO TIME.
AND ON THE OTHER, A DEPRESSED, COWARDLY SWORDSMAN.
ON ONE HAND, WE HAVE A VAIN SORCERER WITH MORE THAN A FEW SCREWS LOOSE.
!!!
AND DON'T WORRY.
PAT

.....
YOU'LL NEVER HEAR A PEEP FROM US AGAIN.
POKE
YOU CALLED?
...ORIGINAL XELLOS.
YOU CAN STAY WITH THEM.
C'mon.
THIS GUY'S WITH ME.
Bye!
OH DEAR ME.
SLUMP

How exciting!
Ooh! yes, yes, yeees!
B-BUT MISS LINA-!
OH, YES! THAT'S AN IDEA I CAN DEFINITELY GET BEHIND, MISS LINA!
FOR ONE THING, THIS XELLOS DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY SECRETS TO KEEP FROM US,
Not you too, Miss Amelia ...
Hee Hee
AND IT HELPS THAT HE SEEMS TO BE CARING AND, WELL... HEROIC.
Gourry's here!
Uhh.
Enough...
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME YOU'D RATHER KEEP A COLD, HEARTLESS, MEGA-DEMON STALKER-PRIEST WHO HIDES EVERYTHING HE CAN FROM EVERYONE ELSE UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE HANGING AROUND US INSTEAD?!
WHAT, GOURRY?
HEY, LINA...
Do ya?
Huh ?!
NAH, NOT THAT. IT'S JUST...
Was all that really necessary?
SHOULDN'T THERE BE MORE SHADOWS THAN THIS?

HUH...?
See? There's just ten of us.
...You mean eight.
It's eight, stupid.
One, two... What comes after two?
...!
What a merciful creature you are!
The heck?
Eep!
I'm scared.
That out of the kindness of your heart, you would take such pitiful wretches under your wing!
(Shadows)
... you say a life is a life,
even if it is a shadow birthed by magic means...
Oh!
There is a name for that...
JAB!
... and it is JUSTICE!

MARK YOU THIS, ALLIES OF JUSTICE! YOUR RIGHTEOUS DEEDS DO NOT PASS UNSEEN BY THE COLD, DARK, DEPTHS OF AMELA WIL TESLA SAILLUNE'S EYES,
EVIL
BUAHAHA
HA
HA
HA
AND FOR THEM, YOU SHALL KNOW YOUR DOOM!
HUP!
GRRK
RIGHTEOUS WORMS WHO ACT IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE...
PREPARE TO BE SQUASHED!
Dwelling within the eternal and the infinite ...
FWOO ...
ARGH...
I KNEW I WAS FORGETTING SOMEONE!
PLAT!
That's me!
Me!

SWOOSH
YOU KNOW THE REST!
RA TILT!
I'LL HANDLE IT FROM HERE.
THE REST OF YOU, BEAT IT!
SHADOW XELLOS...
YOU...
MAYBE...
WE'LL MEET AGAIN, SOMEDAY.

BWA HA HAA!
WHAK WHAK
Ouch!
Wa!
Alright, you slugs. Quit playing around!
COME ON, GANG! GET A MOVE ON!
Hmm, Master Shadow Xellos!
OOH!
THAT VERSION OF MISTER XELLOS IS JUST THE GREATEST EVER!

I'M STILL NOT TALKING ABOUT YOU!
OH, NOW YOU'RE JUST EXAGGERATING...
I'm flattered you think so, though.
SHADOW XELLOS WOULDN'T STEP ON A FLOWER IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OVERGROWN DIRT ROAD.
HE'S AS GENTLE-HEARTED AS THEY COME.
Agh! Let me goo
HEY, YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I KNOW THEY'RE JUST SHADOWS AND ALL, BUT IF YOU LEAVE XELLOS AND AMELIA ALONE LIKE THAT, HE'S GONNA EAT HER ALIVE.
NAH, I DOUBT WE'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

We never saw the shadow versions of ourselves ever again.
But still,
I'm sure that grumpy Shadow Xellos with his heart of gold is still somewhere out there,
learning to fit in with the rest of the world as best he can, with the rest of his motley crew in tow.
shiver, shiver
What's the matter with you two?
At least...
...I sure *hope* they are.
Down goes the sun, out goes the light, the frogs are all croaking now it's time to say goodnight~
-sniff-
If you've got no one else to turn to, how about you come with me?
shiver, shiver
YELP!
Boo!

CHEVY

1998

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SHI'IN DEN

LOVE DESTROYER

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SHINDEN

SLAYERS